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CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. MATHIESON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. FINERON, D.P.A., F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

for the year 1945.

Meacham, Printer, Lichfield

CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

Health Committee:

Alderman Miss A. M. Thompson, *Chairman*

Alderman F. Garratt
Alderman T. Moseley
Councillor C. H. Averill
Councillor C. W. Bridgeman
Councillor A. L. Garratt
Councillor J. Haworth
Councillor F. G. Mantle
Councillor A. Nevill
Councillor Mrs. C. S. Parker, B A.

The Right Worshipful The Mayor (Councillor F. Williams)

Medical Officer of Health:

A. MATHIESON, M.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

JOHN FINERON, D.P.A., F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the Health of the City for the year 1945, in accordance with the special Circular issued by the Ministry of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of City—3,579 acres.

Estimated resident population according to Registrar General—9,082.

Estimated resident population according to Food Office—10,500.

Number of inhabited houses—2,500.

Rateable Value—£56,695.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£225.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—	Total	M	F
Legitimate	175	88	87
Illegitimate	18	7	11

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—19·2.

Still Births—	Total	M	F
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)—22·0.

	Total	M	F
Deaths	96	58	38

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—10·5.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth—
From Sepsis—Nil.
From other causes—Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	28
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	25
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	55

Deaths from	Cancer (all ages)	14
,,	Measles (all ages)	0
,,	Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
,,	Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	1

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following is an analysis of notified cases of infectious disease under different age groups :—

1945

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Ophthalmia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Para Typhoid Fever	Poliomyelitis	Pneumonia	Cerebro Spinal Fever
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2— 3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
3— 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
4— 5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—35	1	...	...	5	...	...	...	...
35—45	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
45—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Over 65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	8	2	...	7	...	...	1	1

Diphtheria Immunisation.

129 children under five and 83 between five and fifteen years of age were immunised.

In addition 188 children previously immunised received one reinforcing dose of prophylactic.

A survey was made to ascertain the number of children in the City now protected against diphtheria. Owing to the constantly changing population during the war years it has been difficult to keep accurate records. The survey showed that 329 children under five years out of an estimated population of 874 are protected. The number of protected children is probably a little larger than this.

Between five and fifteen years of age 1,475 out of an estimated population of 1,560 are protected.

No case of diphtheria occured in the City during the year.

Clinics and Treatment Centre.

A child welfare centre is open each Wednesday afternoon with doctor and two nurses in attendance.

An ante-natal centre is open once a fortnight.

A school clinic is open each Wednesday morning. A doctor attends the first Wednesday in each month.

A clinic for the treatment of errors of refraction of the eye is held about once a fortnight. The County Ophthalmic Surgeon has charge of the clinic.

A dental clinic provides dental treatment for school children, children under five, and expectant and nursing mothers.

All the above are administered by the Staffordshire County Council.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary is open every Tuesday.

An Orthopædic Centre, supported by voluntary contributions and treatment fees, is open daily.

All the above are held in the building situated at 15 Sandford Street, Lichfield.

Ambulance Facilities.

Infectious disease cases are removed by ambulance belonging to Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board.

By agreement with the Lichfield Rural District Council an ambulance is provided when required for non-infectious cases.

General Provision of Health Services.

The Public Health Staff consists of one part-time Medical Officer, one full-time Sanitary Inspector and one clerk.

Health Visiting is carried out by two nurses on the staff of the Staffordshire County Council.

Midwives are supervised by the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.

The County Council Laboratories, Bacteriological and Chemical, are available and free use is made of the excellent facilities provided.

Hospitals.

(1) Lichfield Victoria Hospital, which has a maternity block, serves the City and neighbourhood. Local and consulting staffs are provided.

(2) Public Assistance Hospital, which also has a maternity block.

Infectious Disease cases are isolated at one of the hospitals administered by the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board.

A. MATHIESON,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT

OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CITY.

Water Supply.—With the exception of a few isolated houses the supply to the City is provided by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. It is ample in quantity and of good quality. Samples of water which were submitted to the County Council Laboratory for bacteriological examination were reported to be satisfactory.

Sewage Disposal.—Work on the proposed reconstruction of the outfall works at Curborough has not been commenced, but the City Surveyor states that it should be possible to proceed in the near future.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Apart from extensions of sewers for the new housing estates there have been no important developments during 1945.

Public Cleansing.— This service is supervised by the City Surveyor. The weekly collection has been maintained under adverse conditions, and the practice of returning dustbins to premises after emptying has been resumed. At present most of the refuse is dealt with by incineration. A small quantity is disposed of by tipping,

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table shows the number and nature of inspections made during the year :—

Inspections under the Public Health Acts	304
Inspections under the Housing Acts	25
Inspections under the Shops Acts	40
Re-Inspections	360
Visits to Meat and Food Shops	102
Visits to Markets	46
Visits to Cowsheds	42
Visits to Dairies and Milk Shops	51
Visits to Common Lodging Houses	24
Visits to Bakehouses and Factories	70
Smoke Observations	10
Visits in connection with Licensing of Building	140

NOTICES.

Particulars concerning notices served during the year are as follows :—

Informal Notices served	54
Statutory Notices served	12
Statutory Notices complied with	10
Informal Notices complied with	45

The outstanding informal notices were chiefly in respect of dustbins.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Ten observations were made during the year. In one case where the emission of black smoke was excessive the proprietor of the factory concerned pointed out that the type of fuel he was compelled to use was not suited to the mechanical stoker. Particulars were sent to the Regional Officer of the Ministry of Fuel who arranged for a visit by one of his technical officers. It is understood that recommendations were afterwards made to the Supply Officer and to the consumers with a view to effecting an improvement.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Milk.—The cowsheds and dairy premises are inspected at frequent intervals. During the year a new cowshed was approved at Windmill House, where the occupier has obtained a licence to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk. One retailer in the City holds a Dealer's licence in respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk, and the Walsall and District Co-operative Society have a Supplementary licence respecting the sale of Pasteurised Milk in this district.

Twelve samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk which were submitted to the County Laboratory were reported to have passed the Methylene Blue test.

Four samples of Pasteurised Milk were reported to have passed the Phosphatase test.

Other Foods.—During the year the undermentioned articles were found to be unsound and were voluntarily surrendered to be destroyed :—

29 tins American Tomato Puree	83¾ lbs Corned Beef
55 lbs Bacon	2 tins Corned Beef
46 tins Beans	2 lbs Cooked Ham
1 tin Sliced Beetroot	9 cases Currants
11½ lbs Butter	17 lbs Dates
1 tin Carrots	126 tins Evaporated Milk
3 lbs Cheese	1 tin Fish Roll
5 tins Chopped Ham	140 tins Flotta Tomato Paste
	288 lbs Flour

6 tins Golden Syrup
1 tin Gooseberry Jam
7 tins Herrings
1 tin Household Milk
1 tin Honey (2 lbs)
78 lbs Liver
14 lbs Macaroni
3 tins Mackerel
9 tins Marmalade
1 tin Meat Galantine
2 tins Luncheon Meat
7 tins Meat and Vegetable Ration
8 lbs Oats
10 tins Pears
7 tins Peas
11½ lbs Dried Peaches
3 tins Peaches
8 jars Pickle
1 Pig Carcase
21 tins Pilchards
3 tins Prem
1 lb Prunes
7 tins Pork and Beans
6 tins Pork and Luncheon Meat
2 tins Plum Jam
4 tins Salmon
10 tins Sardines
6 tins Sausage Meat
5 tins Stewed Steak
30 lbs Sultanas
1 tin Swift's Meat
14 boxes Sunpat Confections
2 tins Shrimps
14 tins Ulster Broth
1 ½-pt bottle Vinegar
10 tins Vegetable in Gravy

BILLETING.

Official arrangements were made during the year for the return to their homes of all evacuees who had accommodation available in the evacuation areas. When the proposals were made there were about 80 evacuees in the City. By the time the official arrangements were completed the number had fallen to 4, the others having made their own arrangements to leave Lichfield.

A comprehensive report—a copy of which was sent to the Town Clerk—dealing with the operation of the Government Evacuation Scheme in Lichfield has been prepared for record purposes. The following particulars, which should prove interesting, have been extracted from the report.

The number of billeting notices entered in the Billeting Register was 3,313. About 8,000 letters relating to billeting were sent to householders, while the number of letters received in reference to the scheme was about 5,000. Although the local arrangements were criticised adversely on several occasions not a single complaint was received from householders who had volunteered for the work.

Apart from the help so readily given by a number of voluntary workers the only assistance I had was that rendered by a lady clerk who held office for only part of the period concerned. There was never any permanent billeting staff in the City. Moreover, in spite of strong rumours which persisted, it can now be stated that I never received any regular payments for my part in the work. The only reward I received took the form of small honorariums from the Ministry of Health in recognition of extra travelling and work outside normal office hours.

JOHN FINERON,

Sanitary Inspector.